New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1863.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

We have Richmond papers to the 30th ult. Their news from Bragg differs considerably from the Union accounts, but they cannot conceal the fact that their army was fairly whipped. The latest dispatch is from Atlanta, Nov. 27. After telling how bravely the Confederates fought, and what overwhelming masses of Yankees they repelled again and again with terrible slaughter, and admitting the retreat and change of base by Bragg, this brilliant writer says that the Rebel loss in killed and wounded is not a thousand; the enemy's (Union) is at least 20,000. The Georgians are sometimes called Southern Yankees; but they will never make a reputation for guessing by such jobs as that. *The Richmond Enquirer* has a gloomy editorial on the news, which it construes into a very serious defeat, and calls for the removal of Bragg. The editor foresees disaster to Longstreet unless he had by that time used up Burnside. *The Enquirer* has a short account of the battle with French's corps of Meade's army, on the 27th. It claims a victory for the Rebels, whose loss is put at 450, while the Union loss was "upward of 1,000." Two Rebel Generals—George H. Stuart and Jones—were slightly wounded. Herschel V. Johnson has been reelected to the Rebel Senate from Georgia. The French war steamer is in James River, after that tobacco. The story that Quantrell, had captured and murdered Gen. Blunt and all his staff and escort, somewhere in Arkansas sometime early in October, is repeated by "a gentleman of undoubted credibility." The statement is that Quantrell killed Gen. Blunt and 130 others; that he decoyed the Pin Indians with a lemon flag, and shot them when they came up for protection; "he killed at last 600 Yanks and Pins."

Rebel guerrillas have erected a battery at Waterproof, below Vicksburg, which recently fired into the steamers Emerald and Welcome. Five or six persons are reported killed and wounded. The towboat Harriet was fired into at Grand Gulf on the 19th. She reports a battery of seven 12-pounders two miles below the mouth of Red River. Refugees report 1,300 guerrillas there. This battery fired into the transport Black Hawk a 13-inch shell, which burst in her. The Texas was set on fire and the pilot-house burnt; one negro was killed, and a white man badly wounded. The gunboat Choctaw silenced the battery.

Nearly a whole block of buildings in this city, on Seventh avenue, between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. The loss is about $150,000.

It is doubted that John Morgan has escaped into Canada at all. He has not been seen at Toronto, and his whereabouts is entirely unknown.

GENERAL NEWS.

Cards of invitation having been issued by Mr. Webb, the famous shipbuilder, to his friends and a number of distinguished strangers, a large company of ladies and gentlemen assembled on Wednesday afternoon and evening on board the new Italian frigate "Re d'Italia," to partake of the builder's generous hospitality, and examine the splendid workmanship of his hands. The guests continued to flock to the ship until late in the evening. Dodworth's Band discoursed sweet music, and ladies and gentlemen amused themselves by dancing. A costly banquet was provided in Martini's best style, and when the feast was over, the flow of soul was manifested in music, toasts, and speeches. Among the noticeable guests present were Capt. Worden of the first monitor; Duke Imbert, who is to command the frigate; Capt. Isolo, who commands the Italian frigate that brought to our port the commander and crew for the Re d'Italia; the Italian Consul. Gen. Anfora; Prof. Botta, Peter Cooper, the Rev. Dr. Cummings, Engineer Stimer, H. Allen, Capts. Kroun, Fedorosky, and Boutakoff of the Russian fleet, Postmaster Wakeman, Collector Barney, J. R. Whitney, David Dudley Field, Capt. Baldwin, Mr. Gerard, Mr. Brady, the photographist, Joseph Hoxie, Dr. Gardner, and others. The ship is 6,000 tons, carries 34 rifled and 2 pivot guns, and her two engines have combined 800 horse power. In a few days she will make her trial trip, and then proceed to Italy.

The head of the statue of freedom was successfully hoisted to its position on the dome of the Capitol on Wednesday, amid the cheers of the spectators below and a salute of cannon. The figure is made of bronze, is 19 feet high, and weighs 15,000 pounds, and was designed by Crawford, and by Clark Mills.

When our army, a few days ago, passed over the battle-fields of Chickamauga, they found the bodies of Union soldiers who fell in the first battle still unburied. One account says that the heads of some had been cut off and stuck upon poles.

In the Missouri State Senate on Wednesday a resolution to call another State Convention was laid on the table by a tie vote, the President's vote making the tie.

Four vessels of the Russian fleet have arrived in the Potomac River at Alexandria.

The ancient City of Hudson (N. Y.) has just elected Democratic Charter officers, as usual.

Gold opened at 149¾, but soon fell to 148¾@ 149¾, rallying to 149@149¾, and closing at 149. The market for Gold would be a steadily falling one but for the constant demand to fill three-day contracts by a large class of people, who act upon the theory that the Rebellion and Gold are upon the eve of falling together. After the Board, prices were lower. At the Second Board, as compared with the morning's rates' Coupons of 1881 fell ¼; Missouri 6s, ½. New-York Central was 135¾@136. Erie fell ½, and Hudson River, 1½. Money is in good supply at 7 ₱ cent on call, but there is nothing doing at a less rate, nor are banks disposed to encourage any speculative movement.

We have little this morning from Tennessee. It seems pretty certain, from dispatches to the enemy of Tuesday, that Longtreet is trying to escape into Virginia.

We print four extra pages this morning, in which our readers will find a vast amount of interesting reading on general topics, and a table of prices in New-York for a series of years, which is worth preserving for future reference.

The list of signers to the call for the meeting to-night at the Cooper Institute contains the names of men of all parties, and is an evidence of the universal earnestness to fill up our armies, and in the prosecution of the war. The meeting should, and no doubt will, be large and enthusiastic. Gen. Dix will preside, and addresses will be made by several distinguished speakers.

There are many persons in this city who are anxious to do something to promote enlistments, but do not know how. To some of them we suggest that they can in no way just at present do more than by subscribing for the bonds now issuing by the Controller to raise money to pay the County bounty. The offer of $300 in hand has already had the effect to bring forward recruits at the rate of a hundred a day, and there is every prospect that the number will be greatly increased during the present week. But if it is so, the Supervisors will soon be in want of money to continue the payment of the bounty. All friends of the Government, therefore, who are able, should come forward and assist in the work by taking the bonds. The loan, it is true, needs to be sanctioned by the Legislature, but there can be no question that the Senate, Assembly, and Governor Seymour will unite in legalizing it. Gov. Seymour is already pledged to approve any bill that may be passed, and both the other branches are overwhelmingly loyal. There is no risk, therefore, in lending the money, and it ought to be regarded as a patriotic duty to assist in such a work.

The brief campaign of the Army of the Potomac is over. Having successfully crossed the Rapidan, driven Lee back upon the Orange and Alexandria road, fought one brisk battle on our left wing, and nearly used up their limited supply of rations and forage, a council of war was held, at which it was concluded that a return to the old camping-ground was dictated by every aspect of the case. The main reasons for this course are these: Short rations and difficulty of bringing up more; the enemy strongly intrenched in a position which could not be carried in any event without great loss; very cold weather, making it certain that our wounded, in case of assault, would suffer and die by hundreds before they could be cared for. These facts led to the order for retreat. There was no fighting—not even a skirmish; and the entire army recrossed the river with all its trains intact. The entire loss of the campaign is 600 killed, wounded, and missing, of whom 60 only were killed. The railroad and telegraph is in order from Washington to Rappahannock Station.

MACHINE-SMASHING.

A correspondent—who is brave enough to offer to let us see his name if we insist on having it—says that we ought to have insisted on stopping the Union machine and reversing its engine if we supposed it was being run badly in the recent Municipal canvass.—He has a perfect right to his opinion, as we have to act in accordance with our own convictions of duty. Our political friends who ran the Union machine were perfectly aware from the first that we wished some one of our very ablest, wisest, best known, most honored citizens selected as the Union candidate for Mayor, and that we decidedly preferred that he should be one who, though now only and unconditionally Union, had acted with the Democrats prior to the outbreak of the Slaveholders' Rebellion. Our first choice, of course, was Gen. Dix; and we did what we fairly could to have him brought forward. We believed, and *now* believe, that, had he been solicited, in a becoming manner, and by a general requisition signed by the leading Unionists of our City, he would have consented to stand. But the machines were all set to prevent his nomination, unless he chose to appear as a competitor with one or two others for Union votes; and that he neither would do nor should have done.

But Gen. Dix is not the only man who could have called out the Union strength of our City. We could have polled from Twenty-five to Thirty Thousand votes for George Bancroft, or Francis B. Cutting, or Edwards Pierrepont, or one or two others of that stamp. We believe we could have polled nearly so many for Hamilton Fish, or some one of our capable and public-spirited merchants. But the opportunity was not afforded us. Mr. Orison Blunt—who had run for Congress as a bolter last year in the only district of our City that we had a prospect of carrying, and polled 996 votes—was made our candidate—through the contrivance and procurement of Francis I. A. Boole, we have no manner of doubt. We do not mean that every one who favored Blunt's nomination was inspired to do so by Boole; but we *do* mean that, had Boole let our machine alone, Blunt would not have been our candidate.

'Then,' says our critic, 'you ought to have bolted, and upset the machine.'—So we would, we answer, if Mr. Blunt had been a knave and public robber. But such is by no means the case. He is honest; he is thoroughly patriotic; and he has had a very considerable Municipal experience, which would have made him in many respects a useful Mayor. To the extent of his capacity and power, he would have opposed all manner of jobbery and plundering of the public. He would have made a fair average Mayor. Yet he lacked some qualities very desirable in the holder of that office; and he was not the man to concentrate and call out our full Union vote. So we feared from the first; so the result has proved.

—'Then why not bolt, and make a general smash of the crockery?'

Simply because that would have rendered certain the very catastrophe that we apprehended, and would have shifted the responsibility of producing it from the runners of the machine to *us*. It was settled last year that, when Orison Blunt gets any sort of a nomination, he holds on to it like grim Death; and, had another Unionist been pitted against him, we should have confronted such a certainty of defeat that not more than half our vote would have been polled. So we resolved to make the best of our position, and we *did*. We could not elect Mr. Blunt; but we did what we could to swell his vote. The result is known.

—And now we give fair notice that the machine business is played out. We shall not wait next time to be crowded into such a corner as we have just occupied. It shall not be our fault if there are not six thoroughly loyal, upright, capable, well known and popular candidates for Congress before the people of this City before the machines can be got into operation next Fall. We don't care if they all live in one Ward, one street, one block, so that they are men who will be generally recognized as eminently qualified and worthy to represent this great Emporium in the grand council of the Republic. And we ask our fellow-citizens to begin *now* to consider who ought so to represent us, and to confer with each other on the subject. We hope to see them quite generally agreed upon before July, and nominated by public requisition by the 1st of September. Let us never ask who lives in this Ward or this District, but who ought to represent our *City*, and put them forward. If our citizens who feel that they have a stake in the country and owe it something more than a languid vote will only act seasonably in the premises, we may have men nominated whose names will add Five Thousand to our vote next November. If they neglect it, they will have machine candidates to support next Fall, and we shall probably do our best for them. But there is no need of this; and, if we are brought to it, the blame shall not be ours.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY ANNIVERSARY AT PHILADELPHIA.

Thirty years ago to-day, a few men met in Philadelphia to form the American Anti-Slavery Society. The Convention was not only small in numbers, but with rare exceptions its members were unknown beyond their own neighborhoods. The most conspicuous were the Rev. Beriah Green, then recently Professor of Sacred Literature in Western Reserve College; Lewis Tappan, an enterprising merchant of this city; John G. Whittier, the Quaker poet; Wm. Lloyd Garrison, then as now the editor of *The Boston Liberator;* Dr. A. L. Cox, a skillful physician of this city; Samuel J. May and Amos A. Phelps, clergymen of Massachusetts; William Goodell, then editor of *The Genius of Temperance;* Elizur Wright, jr., since known as the translator of La Fontaine; the Rev. S. S. Jocelyn of this city, and Dr. E. A. Atlee and J. Miller McKim of Philadelphia. The Convention numbered 62 persons, from 10 States. Prof. Green officiated as President, and Messrs. Tappan and Whittier as Secretaries. A Declaration of Principles and Purposes, from the emphatic and eloquent pen of Mr. Garrison, was adopted, and "The American Anti-Slavery Society," based on the doctrine of immediate emancipation without expatriation, organized. The officers of the Society were then chosen. Its President was Arthur Tappan, the senior partner of one of our oldest mercantile firms, and widely known for his munificent contributions to the religious and benevolent institutions of the country. Among its other officers were Samuel Fessenden, the head of the Maine bar, and the father of the present able Senator in Congress from that State, the Rev. Dr. Lord, President of Dartmouth College, Professors Fitch and Ives of Yale College, Benjamin Lundy, one of the earliest Anti-Slavery pioneers, Joshua Leavitt, the editor, successively, of *The N. Y. Evangelist, The Emancipator,* and *The Independent,* Professor Shepard of Bangor Theological Seminary, Theodore D. Weld, and Ellis Gray Loring, David Lee Child, and Samuel E. Sewall, members of the Boston bar. Looking confidently into the Future, the Declaration of the Convention, signed by all its members, proclaimed: "Our trust for victory is solely in God. We may be personally defeated, but our principles never. Truth, Justice, Reason, Humanity, must and will gloriously triumph." In a sketch of the proceedings of the Convention, a leading delegate, through an Anti-Slavery periodical, said: "The members of the Convention and their associates will never cease from their labors till their cause is triumphant. The God of Truth and Justice is with them, and they will finally prevail."

No reflecting man can doubt that the historian of the conflict between Freedom and Slavery which has convulsed this nation for the last thirty years, will assign a very important part in the great movement to the society whose organization we have briefly sketched. From the start, it entered upon its seemingly almost hopeless work with an energy and a will that nothing could discourage or dismay. In the language of Mr. Garrison, "it *would* be heard."

Its first battle was for freedom of speech and the press. And, in the face of riots and Lynchings, and murders even, and while its meetings were broken up by mobs, and its presses thrown into rivers, and its orators and editors shut up in prisons or shot down at their posts, it fought out this fight during five or six years with a persistency and a courage which have few parallels in the annals of progress and reform. The heroism of this small body of proscribed men and women wrung plaudits from their opponents. The late William Leggett wrote of them twenty-eight years ago:—"It would seem as if God had winnowed the population of the country to select a choice few whom nothing can drive from the exercise of their right to discuss the question of Slavery." Commenting upon the anti-Abolition riots that disgraced this city in 1834, during which the house of Lewis Tappan was sacked and his furniture reduced to ashes, Mr. Charles King, then editor of *The New-York American,* said, "Fire cannot burn their convictions out of these men." Nor did it! Unseduced by blandishments and undeterred by violence, the Abolitionists kept straight on, urging their obnoxious doctrines upon public attention, not always in the mildest terms, nor with the sweetest temper, but with stern facts and sturdy arguments, until they compelled the nation to stand still and listen.

Mingling with this contest for free speech and free printing, though initiated at a little later period in the conflict, was the memorable struggle for the right of petition. In 1835 and 1836, the Anti-Slavery societies began to petition Congress for the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia and the inhibition of the inter-State Slave-trade, and kindred measures. Though few at the outset, the number of petitioners swelled during the next two or three years till it reached in one Congress three-fourths of a million. It would belie obvious facts to call all these petitioners "Abolitionists." In the defense of the right of petition, as also that of the freedom of speech and the press, it became evident to considerate men that not alone was the right to discuss and petition in regard to Slavery involved, but that vital constitutional principles were at stake, and that these must be defended against their assailants, irrespective of the merits of the particular subject over which the battle was waged, or the popularity or prestige of the persons whose privileges were put in peril.

It was upon these broad grounds that the venerable John Quincy Adams early became the champion of freedom of debate and the right of petition in the House of Representatives, where, for twelve years, he grappled with the Slave Power, making not America only, but the civilized world, resound with the clash of the conflict. Doubtless posterity will regard this as the most honorable and brilliant chapter in the long and eventful life of this extraordinary man. The service he rendered to the cause of Freedom during these years was of incalculable value. The exalted positions he had held, his multifarious learning, his world-wide renown, lent luster to the cause, while his exhaustless resources, his skill in debate, his dauntless courage and indomitable will, were a tower of strength to its friends, and a never-failing source of mortification and discomfiture to its foes.

The freedom of speech and of debate, and the right of petition, had hardly been secured, before the subject of the annexation of Texas, and the consequent enlargement of the area of Slavery, arrested the public attention. While thousands of our best and wisest men of all creeds and parties early took alarm at this attempt to commit the country to a policy of aggression upon the rights of foreign States, it is due to truth to say that the Abolitionists and their immediate coadjutors were the only classes who resisted annexation upon purely anti-Slavery grounds. This contest, opening in 1837, continued with occasional lulls until the Presidential campaign of 1844, when it largely mingled in the discussions of the two parties that divided the country, the conspirators against National honor achieving a triumph in the election of James K. Polk over Henry Clay.

It was now eleven years since the American Anti-Slavery Society was formed. During this period kindred societies had been organized in every considerable town and village in the Free States, whose members numbered scores of thousands. These associations had employed hundreds of agents, who had traversed the country delivering addresses in all the principal centers of population. They had established newspapers in all the Northern States, and had circulated pamphlets and tracts by the million. Not only had they petitioned Congress, but they had besieged the Legislatures of the Free States, demanding that they themselves memorialize Congress in behalf of Emancipation, and protest against the abridgment of the right of debate and petition, and the annexation of Texas to the Union. Vermont and Massachusetts responded favorably to their demands in 1837, and other States subsequently copied their example, till at one period the Legislature of every State not hopelessly bound in the fetters of a Pro-Slavery Democracy spoke words more or less emphatic for the slave and his champions. The Abolitionists had also made their power felt at the ballot-box, either by voting for the most acceptable candidates of the Whig and Democratic parties, or by bringing out candidates of their own. Their principles had likewise made a strong lodgment in the leading religious denominations of the country. Indeed, at the period of the inauguration of Mr. Polk, and the consequent consummation of the Texas villainy, neither House of Congress, no State Legislature, no ecclesiastical body, no educational Convention, no benevolent society, no political assemblage, could meet without finding itself launched upon a wide sea of discussion concerning Slavery. The most superficial observer could not fail to see, nor the most indifferent spectator to feel, that the principles of the Abolitionists, after passing through the ordeal of long years of reproach and persecution, had taken fast hold upon the intellect and conscience of great masses of the American people.

The annexation of Texas was followed by the Mexican war, which brought in its train large accessions of territory. The whole nation was now compelled to stand face to face with the long dreaded and much avoided subject of Slavery. Congress and the country were convulsed. The greatest minds of the time were forced to grapple with the agitating theme. The discussion summoned to the forum the loftiest statesmanship. It sent to the closet the ripest scholarship. It levied contributions upon the eloquence, the learning, the genius of the Senate, the Synod and the School, until all ranks and conditions of men were involved in the agitation.

After the advent of the Wilmot Proviso in 1847-8, the Slavery agitation passed beyond the pale of the Abolitionists. Yet, from that important epoch onward till Secession reared its treasonable crest, not a fundamental argument was employed against Slavery, nor a vital principle enunciated, nor a sound view of the Constitution exhibited, nor an important fact presented, nor a prime objection answered, nor a glowing appeal in behalf of Liberty uttered, which had not been previously employed, enunciated, exhibited, presented, answered, and uttered by the Abolitionists. So true is this, that to minds familiar with the Anti-Slavery literature of the era, the speeches and prelections of those statesmen and orators who, for the last twelve or fifteen years, have fulmined in the Senate and on the rostrum, while spurning the imputation of being "Abolitionists," have seemed to be but the cast-off robes, furbished up for the occasion, of the very class whom they affected to repudiate if not despise.

During the Wilmot Proviso struggle, and its closely-following contest over the Compromise measures of 1850, the radical Anti-Slavery politicians of the country organized the Free-Soil party, the voting Abolitionists generally rallying to its support. Four years later, the Slave Power dictated the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which speedily bore its natural fruit in the raids and rascalities, the frauds and felonies, perpetrated in Kansas. These crimes stimulated to action the spirit of Northern freemen. They combined to resist these outrages upon Liberty and Law, and gave body and form to their determination by organizing the Republican party. At the election of 1856 the Slave Oligarchy triumphed, and triumphed, thank God, for the last time in a Presidential contest. Not heeding the ominous gathering in the Northern skies, the conspirators celebrated their triumph by endeavoring to sacrifice Human Freedom on the altar of the Dred Scott infamy, and to crucify Representative Government on the Lecompton swindle. The sequel is known. The Anti-Slavery sentiment of the country was equal to the exigency. It consolidated its ranks. Douglas revolted, split the Democracy in twain, and Abraham Lincoln took the Presidential chair.

Throughout the series of great events we have noticed, the course of the Abolitionists was marvelously direct and straightforward. They aimed their blows right at the core of Slavery, denouncing it as a sin whose only appropriate remedy was immediate and unconditional repentance. Amid convulsions that made the continent tremble, this small band of reformers pursued their line of policy with a directness that finds its fitting illustration in the parallel of latitude which crosses wide oceans, climbs high mountains, penetrates deep valleys, and traverses broad plains, without variableness or shadow of turning. Yet, notwithstanding this, it requires no spirit of divination to perceive that the organization of the Anti-Slavery Society in 1833, and the election of a Republican President in 1860, bear to each other the relation of remote cause and ultimate effect.

We utter no eulogium upon the Abolitionists. Posterity will do them justice, awarding praise and blame with impartial hand. Like other reformers, some of them have sometimes been impatient if not intolerant of those who were less quick to see, less keen to feel, less prompt to act, than themselves. Their great work hastens to completion. We venture the prediction that if any of those who aided in forming the society of 1833 shall live till a third of a century shall have passed since that event, they will greet a day whose rising sun will not shed his beams upon a single negro slave in all our broad land.

ENFORCED RESPECT.

All men instinctively respect a plucky opponent; and it is pleasant to observe, by occasional symptoms, that the hard knocks dealt out by the colored troops are compelling even the Rebels to treat them as soldiers. An instance of this has lately occurred at Beaufort, S. C.

When the 1st South Carolina Volunteers (Col. Higginson) were first put on advanced picket at Port Royal Island, all flags of truce ceased for a time at the ferry—the usual point of communication—because the Rebel officers stated, not discourteously but distinctly, that they were ordered not to recognise the officers of that regiment.

The next time the regiment was sent on its tour of picket duty, the overtures were made in a different manner. A detachment of 60 black soldiers, under Capt. Bryant, landed by night on the main land—captured two pickets—sent a squad under a black sergeant within two miles of Pocataligo—brought away from that region 27 contrabands—were pursued by a cavalry force of a hundred, *led on by five bloodhounds*—killed all the dogs, together with the captain of the company and five men—and returned to the main land with six black men wounded and none killed by the enemy. Two, who were separated from the rest, were drowned in crossing a muddy creek.

Now mark the result. Two days after, Gen. Saxton had occasion to send a flag of truce, in reference to other matters. This time there was no repugnance to negotiating with the officers of the 1st S. C. V. The Rebel officers, one of whom was in the fight, admitted the courage of the negroes, regretted the loss of the Captain and particularly of the dogs, and in general behaved like gentlemen.

Moral: Conquer a peace instead of cringing for it.

We understand that one of the slain dogs was brought away, skinned, and forwarded to this city, to be stuffed and mounted, as a trophy for the regiment. It is intended to exhibit it for a short time in this city, when prepared, as a specimen of Southern warfare. These hounds belong to a rare and costly breed, having been valued at several hundred dollars before the war and at a fabulous price now. The prisoners admitted that it would be easier to replace the men than the dogs.

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Gen. Hitchcock's letter on the exchange of prisoners is a clear, complete, and manifestly frank statement of the chief points in controversy between the Government and the Rebels. The business has been in his hands from the beginning, and his account is therefore authoritative. It will satisfy the country that the Government is all right and the Rebels all wrong.

1. Ample evidence is brought forward that colored soldiers and their white officers have never been included by the Rebels in any offer of general exchange; that they are not and have never been recognized as prisoners of war. The negroes when captured have been imprisoned, sold into slavery, or murdered. Their white officers are handed over as criminals to State authorities. The Rebels steadily refuse to entertain any proposition leading to the exchange or release of either soldiers or officers.

2. The recent proposition by the Rebel agent to release all prisoners on each side is shown to be fraudulent. The colored soldiers and their officers were not included in it. The effect of it if accepted would be to release 40,000 prisoners in our possession in exchange for 13,000 in Rebel hands. The excess of 27,000, there is every reason to suppose, would be speedily "declared exchanged" by Mr. Ould, and would again be found in the Rebel ranks. Mr. Ould has avowed that he should make such declaration "whenever he conscientiously felt the right to do so, for the purpose of putting men into the field." He actually did so in the case of the paroled Vicksburg prisoners, who have never been exchanged, and some of whom have recently been recaptured at Chattanooga. Yet Mr. Ould has expressly denied that any such paroled prisoners had been put into the field.

3. Mr. Ould's "tabular statement," of which so much has been said, by which he undertook to justify his declarations of exchange, is simply an elaborate swindle. Some of the men included in it were properly prisoners of war, but most of them were not captured on any known battle-field, nor when serving under any known United States commander. They are set down as captured at large in the State of Kentucky, or Tennessee, and even as having been captured "in Kentucky *and* Tennessee." They were not in any sense military captures, but were mostly arrests of Union citizens, not in arms, by the Rebel military authorities and by guerrillas. And these are the "prisoners of war" whom Mr. Ould "conscientiously" offsets against the garrisons of Vicksburg to enable him to declare the latter exchanged!

4. To relieve the sufferings of our captive soldiers and officers, Gen. Meredith recently proposed to Mr. Ould that he would send him 12,000 or more Rebel prisoners, and receive in return an equal number of our prisoners held in the South. The proposition was declined. An offer was then made to receive all our prisoners under pledge that they should not take up arms until regularly exchanged by agreement with the Rebels. This also was declined. The Rebels will agree to nothing short of a general release on both sides, exclusive of colored soldiers and their officers, "the effect of which," says Gen. Hitchcock, "undoubtedly would be to cancel the excess of prisoners in our hands by a delivery of about 40,000 for 13,000; to leave the Rebel authorities the entire disposition of such colored troops and their white officers as they might capture; to expose Capts. Sawyer and Flynn to their fate under orders in Richmond which have never been countermanded; to turn loose again certain notorious guerrilla leaders to renew their ravages in Kentucky and Missouri (neither of which States has ever united with the so-called Southern Confederacy); to put into the field a fresh army of Rebels to be recaptured; and in short we should deliberately neutralize or throw away a chief part of the power of the Government at this time, through which there may be some hope by measures yet to be decided upon of controlling the action of the authorities in Richmond in their treatment of prisoners of war, and of compelling them to respect the laws of war, if they are deaf to those of humanity."

Meanwhile the Government is doing what it can to relieve the sufferings of Union prisoners in Richmond, but it is plain that from its present position it can recede neither with safety nor with honor.

FRANCE, MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

We find in our French papers copious extracts from the so-called Blue and Yellow Books, published soon after the meeting of the French Chambers. The one contains the report of the Department of Foreign Affairs on the External Relations of France, the other the Diplomatic Correspondence. Both, we need not add, are deeply interesting.

We published, a few days ago, those portions of the Blue Book which review the Polish and Mexican questions, and the relation of France to the United States. Among the most interesting documents in the "Yellow Book," which refer to Mexico and the United States, are a dispatch of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys to Gen. Bazaine, on the French policy in Mexico, and another which we publish this morning to Count Mercier, giving an account of a conversation between him (Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys) and Mr. Dayton.

The dispatch to Gen. Bazaine, after a brief defense of the Mexican expedition, throws out some interesting intimations as to the future. The election of Maximilian by the Notables, says the dispatch, can be regarded only as "a first indication of the disposition of the country;" and it now belongs to the Provisional Government "to collect the suffrages of the people in such a manner as to leave no doubt on the will of the country." The Emperor recommends this essential point to Gen. Bazaine's "particular attention."

We are again assured, and this time more explicitly than ever, that it is the desire of the Government of the Emperor "to restrict, as promptly as circumstances will permit, the extent and the duration" of the French occupation of Mexico. In order to facilitate the withdrawal of the French, the reorganization of the Mexican army is declared to be an urgent necessity. Gen. Bazaine is to recommend to the Provisional Government to push this matter with the greatest possible activity, to multiply the ways of communication and to provide for the security of transports and the rapid interchange of correspondence.

An important announcement is made with regard to the administration of the finances of Mexico. They are not to be included in the national reorganization of the country, but must remain for the present under French control in order to secure the payment of the French claims. The latter are two-fold; those anterior to the war and those originating in the war. The former will be examined by a committee to be appointed by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, and presented to the Provisional Government; the second class will be based on the report of the Ministers of War and of the Navy on the expenses of the expedition. Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys hopes that he will soon be able to transmit to Gen. Bazaine an account of the total claims of France.

Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in his interview with Mr. Dayton, officially denied that France intended at present to recognize the Southern Confederacy, or that she had concluded a treaty by which Texas and Louisiana were to be ceded to her. With regard to the latter point, he declares that he reassured Mr. Dayton that France did not seek, either for herself or for others, any territorial acquisition in America.

Taken altogether, these documents produce the impression than that the Government of France has entirely abandoned all idea—if it ever entertained any—of extending her territory upon the American continent, and that it is now marshaling its strength for the impending European crisis.

It is stated by gentlemen recently from Tennessee that at an informal meeting of thirty prominent slaveholders of that State, all but two expressed the opinion that the advantages to be derived from coming again under the National Government would more than compensate for any loss of slave property they might suffer, and that therefore no remuneration should be asked from the Federal Government.